

Simple Sermon Outlining

ILLUSTRATED

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1. What is an Outline?

- ▶ A plan
- ▶ A map
- ▶ Logic at work
- ▶ Prudence
- ▶ Accountability
- ▶ Powerful study tool
- ▶ Silent helper

2. Speaker's Goal:

- ▶ to be EASY to FOLLOW.

3. Find Your Text

- ▶ Careful prayer and meditation.
- ▶ Something timely and appropriate.

Our Text Today: **Exodus 19:5** "Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:"

4. Divide the Parts of the Text & Relate Them

"Now therefore,

- If ye
- will obey
- my voice indeed,
- and keep my covenant,

then ye shall be a peculiar treasure

- unto me
- above all people:

for all the earth is mine:"

5. Study the Parts of the Text

Take time to investigate each part individually:

“Now therefore, → this is a timely suggestion

-If ye → Me, the one delivered

-will obey → Action, do, effort needed

-my voice indeed, → His sheep know it

-and keep my covenant, → His Word

then ye shall be a peculiar treasure → jewel, valuable, special

-unto me → me=God, pleasing to God

-above all people: → Great honor to be God’s

for all the earth is mine:” → Ps. 24:1

For example: “Now therefore” →

- ▶ [DICATIONARY] “Now therefore, if ye will obey” is actually all from one Hebrew word *shama* [HB08085] meaning ‘to hear intelligently so that you obey’
 - ▶ [CONTEXT] This recommendation is given immediately after the great deliverance God worked by bringing Israel out of Egypt.
 - ▶ An amazing suggestion is NOW being made!
- Etc....

6. Label the Parts of the Text

I. “Now therefore,

A. if ye

B. will obey

1. my voice indeed,

2. and keep my covenant,

II. then ye shall be a peculiar treasure

A. unto me

B. above all people:

III. for all the earth is mine:”

7. Thesis Statement

- ▶ What is the essence of the text?
- ▶ What truth is to be emphasized?

- ▶ What is your focus?
- ▶ What is God saying?
- ▶ The thesis should be your message in a single and complete sentence.

“Everyone should obey God because there is great reward in it and God deserves our obedience.” [THESIS STATEMENT]

8. Develop the Outline

Look at the main points of your outline and consider how to maintain the UNITY of **thought** and create a UNITY in **style**:

- I. “Now therefore,”
- II. “then ye shall be a peculiar treasure”
- III. “for all the earth is mine:”

=How can we better **phrase** these ideas? =

I. Godly Obedience is Recommended

II. Godly Obedience is Rewarded

III. Godly Obedience is Right

THESIS: “Everyone should obey God because there is great reward in it and God deserves our obedience.”

- The outline gives us 3 **keywords** that identify the *stops* along the way to our *destination*: Recommended, Rewarded, & Right.
- NOTICE each main point obviously relates to the thesis and to each other.

9. Develop the Main Points

- ▶ Each main point should clarify the thesis.
- ▶ Each main point should relate to the others.
- ▶ Each main point should come in an order that is logical (easy to follow).
- ▶ Treat each main point as if it was a mini sermon in of itself with an *introduction, body & conclusion*.

(*thought: Here is an amazing suggestion to obey.*)

I. **Godly Obedience is Recommended**

→ *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant,*

A. The Time: *Now*

B. The Person: *Ye*

C. The Rule

1. *My voice*

2. *My covenant*

(*thought: Obedience to God is greatly rewarded.*)

II. **Godly Obedience is Rewarded**

→ *then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:*

A. Precious to God

B. Promoted above Others

(*thought: Obedience to God makes sense.*)

III. **Godly Obedience is Right**

→ *for all the earth is mine:*

A. God Made it All

B. God Owns It All

C. God Rules it All

10. Color the Outline *WITH...*

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Conclusion
- ▶ Explanation
- ▶ Illustration
- ▶ Application
- ▶ Complementary Texts

- ▶ Introduction: The Goal
 - Gain their **attention** and **interest**.
 - Give your **thesis** so that they know what you are going to talk about.
 - Maybe give a **title**.
 - **Prepare** listeners for what is to come.

Introduction

A. ILLUSTR: *Wilderness Story*

B. Thesis:

“Everyone should obey God because there is great reward in it and God deserves our obedience.”

C. Preview & Title

“Our subject is ‘Obeying God’ as **recommended, rewarded and right.**”

- ▶ Conclusion: The Goal
 - Refresh their Memory
 - Reestablish your Emphasis
 - Call for Action

Conclusion:

A. “We detailed today the recommendation, reward and rightness of obeying God.”

B. “If you forget everything else I have shared today, please leave knowing: obedience to God is always worth it!”

C. Have you been kicking against the pricks? Yield to God’s call to you today and obey his voice and Word.

- ▶ Complementary Texts
 - If you use five verses of Scripture, only one should be your *main text* and the anchor to your thoughts and the others should be complementary.
 - Verses should never be used out of context, but should naturally relate to your main text.
- ▶ Explanation
 - Fill in the gaps for your audience.
 - Relate foreign ideas to familiar ideas to enable comprehension.
 - Do not be content with being abstract, but relate the ideas to your audience.
 - Explain WHY you are saying what you are saying.
- ▶ Illustration
 - Everyone loves a story and so stories are great attention getters.
 - Jesus was a master story teller. With parables, He was able to make deep truths of the kingdom understandable.
 - Illustration and quotes add color.
- ▶ Application
 - Do not be content with leaving your hearers only with **'theory'**, but be determined to relay to them **'practice.'**
 - Your listeners may ask themselves at some point, "Alright, so the Bible does say *that*, but what does *that* have to do with me?" Have you answered that question?

11. Put all the Pieces Together

"Plug in" your prepared notes using the following structure...

"Title"

Introduction

→ Thesis, etc.

Body

→ Main thoughts and exposition of the thesis.

→ Explanation, Application, Illustration

Conclusion

→ Emphasis, call for action, & etc.

12. Look for & Pray Over Weaknesses

- ▶ Am I clear?

- ▶ Am I easy to follow?
- ▶ Am I interesting?
- ▶ Am I relevant?
- ▶ Am I truthful?
- ▶ Am I efficient?
- ▶ Can it be better said or said more simply?
- ▶ Are my complimentary texts properly used?
- ▶ Am I compassionate?
- ▶ Am I bold and definite with truth?

13. Leave the Results to God

- ▶ If you have diligently prepared by prayer, meditation, study and organization, you have no reason to feel intimidated in sharing.
- ▶ Your part is to prepare and follow God's leading, the results are God's part.

14. EXAMPLE

“Godly Obedience”

Introduction

- A. ILLUSTRATION: “Why God brought Israel through the wilderness for 40 years.”
- B. Thesis: “Everyone should obey God because there is great reward in it and God deserves our obedience.”
- C. Preview & Title: “‘Godly Obedience’ as **recommended**, **rewarded** and **right**.”

I. **Godly Obedience is Recommended**

→ *Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant,*
(*thought: Here is an amazing suggestion: to obey.*)

- A. The Time: *Now*
- B. The Person: *Ye*
- C. The Rule
 - 1. *My voice*
 - 2. *My covenant*

II. **Godly Obedience is Rewarded**

→ *then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people:*
(*thought: Obedience to God is greatly rewarded.*)

- A. Precious to God I Peter 2:9; Psalm 116:15
- B. Promoted above Others Luke 13:30

III. **Godly Obedience is Right**

→ *for all the earth is mine:*
(*thought: Obedience to God makes sense.*)

- A. God Made it All Genesis 1:1
- B. God Owns It All Psalm 24:1
- C. God Rules it All Daniel 2:21

Conclusion:

- A. “We detailed today the recommendation, reward and rightness of obeying God.”
- B. “Please leave knowing: obedience to God is always worth it!”
- C. Have you been kicking against the pricks? Yield to God’s call to you today and obey his voice and Word.